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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,619	07/18/2003	Takanobu Ichihara	056208.52589US	2227
23911	7590	02/08/2005		EXAMINER
CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300				TRAN, DIEM T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3748	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/621,619	ICHIHARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Diem Tran	3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 3 and 5 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities:

-In claim 7, line 7, “energization” should be changed to --non-energization--.

-In claim 7, line 8, “non-inergization” should be changed to --non-energization--.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hajima et al.

(JP 07-139455)

Regarding claim 1, Hajima discloses a starting apparatus of an internal combustion engine comprising: main air passage including an intake manifold (2) for supplying air to each cylinder of the engine, a bypass air passage (14) provided in parallel and connected close to intake port to the main air passage each cylinder (see Figure 1), vaporization fuel supply means (15) for supplying vaporized fuel to the bypass air passage, bypass air control valve (16) capable of controlling the incoming air quantity into the bypass passage, wherein main air control valves for the main air passage are provided near intake ports in respective pipes of the intake manifold.

Regarding claim 2, Hajima further discloses that at the time engine start-up cranking, the bypass air control valve is opened and the main air passage is closed, and vaporized fuel is supplied to the bypass air passage by the vaporization fuel supply means (see translation, pages 2, 3, parts [0013], [0016]).

Regarding claim 4, Hajima further discloses that the vaporization fuel supply means comprises an auxiliary fuel injection valve and a heater for heating the fuel injected from the auxiliary fuel injection valve (see translation, page 3, lines 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hajima et al. (JP 07-139455) as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Mitobe et al. (US Patent 5,765,372).

Regarding claims 8-10, Hajama discloses all the claimed limitations as discussed in claim 1 above, however, fails to disclose that the exhaust filtration apparatus has one support container on exhaust pipe, and the catalyst supports filled into one support container hold HC absorbents. Mitobe teaches that it is conventional in the art, to utilize an exhaust filtration apparatus installed in an exhaust pipe of the engine comprising a catalyst that holds HC absorbents (see col. 9, lines 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have utilized the teaching of Mitobe in the Hajima method, since the use thereof would have improved the efficiency of the emission control system.

Moreover, re claim 10, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize plural support containers in the exhaust pipe, since it has been held that interchanging an integral part, for plural parts involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3, 5 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Diem Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 800-786-9199 (toll-free).



Diem Tran
Patent Examiner
Art unit 3748

DT

January 31, 2005



Thomas Denion
THOMAS DENION
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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